

Application No. 10/722,316
Amendment dated 05/03/2006
Reply to Office Action of February 21, 2006

03-ASD-159 (EM)

REMARKS

Formal issues

The Examiner objected to claim 7 because of a minor informality. Applicant has amended claim 7 to eliminate the informality helpfully noted by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

§ 103 rejection

Claims 7-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2004/0118166 to Ford et al. ("Ford") in view of common knowledge and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,157,026 to Meschenmoser ("Meschenmoser"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner admitted that Ford failed to disclose the claimed pair of projections but asserted that it would have been obvious to modify Ford to apply the teachings from Meschenmoser to obtain the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Meschenmoser does not teach or suggest the claimed pair of projections. Meschenmoser only shows a recess 27 that is formed in an insulating block; the block 19 itself cannot be considered "a pair of projections" because, as clearly shown in Figure 5, the block 19 is a single piece with no projecting portions.

In fact, Meschenmoser teaches away from the claimed pair of projections because Meschenmoser explicitly requires the recess 27 to extend only partly across the block 19 and not all the way through to divide the block 19 in two (page 2, lines 115-120). Meschenmoser states that this recess 27 construction is an "important feature" that ensures that the plug in Figure 4 can be inserted into the block 19 of Figure 5 in only one orientation (page 2, line 120 to page 3, line 5).

One of ordinary skill in the art would not have been led to modify the recess 27 in Meschenmoser to form the claimed "pair of projections" because doing so would compromise the positioning and alignment function provided by the recess 27, which were deemed an important feature by Meschenmoser. Even if it were possible to extend the recess 27 all the way across the block 19, this still would not suggest the claimed pair of projections on the lead frame because Meschenmoser focuses on a plug structure that has

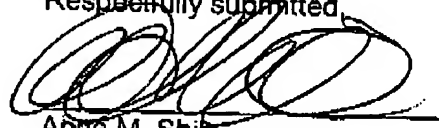
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nothing to do with a lead frame structure, much less projections extending from a lead frame. Because Meschenmoser teaches incorporating a recess in a plug block and not a complete slot, much less a pair of projections, the combination of Ford and Meschenmoser fails to render the claimed invention obvious. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-16 is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 05-0275.

Respectfully submitted,



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